

(b) Activity results may be widely applied to appropriate target populations and rehabilitation problems.

(Authority: Sec. 202(e); 29 U.S.C. 761a(e))

**§ 350.52 What is the composition of a peer review panel?**

(a) The Secretary selects as members of a peer review panel scientists and other experts in rehabilitation or related fields who are qualified, on the basis of training, knowledge, or experience, to give expert advice on the merit of the applications under review.

(b) Applications for awards of \$60,000 or more, except those for the purposes of evaluation, dissemination of information, or conferences, must be reviewed by a peer review panel that consists of a majority of non-Federal members.

(c) In selecting members to serve on a peer review panel, the Secretary takes into account all of the following factors:

(1) The level of formal scientific or technical education completed by potential panel members.

(2)(i) The extent to which potential panel members have engaged in scientific, technical, or administrative activities appropriate to the category of applications that the panel will consider;

(ii) The roles of potential panel members in those activities; and

(iii) The quality of those activities.

(3) The recognition received by potential panel members as reflected by awards and other honors from scientific and professional agencies and organizations outside the Department.

(4) Whether the panel includes knowledgeable individuals with disabilities, or parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of individuals with disabilities.

(5) Whether the panel includes individuals from diverse populations.

(Authority: Secs. 18 and 202(e); 29 U.S.C. 717 and 761a(e))

**§ 350.53 How does the Secretary evaluate an application?**

(a)(1)(i) The Secretary selects one or more of the selection criteria in § 350.54 to evaluate an application;

(ii) The Secretary establishes selection criteria based on statutory provisions

that apply to the Program which may include, but are not limited to—

(A) Specific statutory selection criteria;

(B) Allowable activities;

(C) Application content requirements; or

(D) Other pre-award and post-award conditions; or

(iii) The Secretary uses a combination of selection criteria established under paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section and selection criteria in § 350.54.

(2) For Field-Initiated Projects, the Secretary does not consider § 350.54(b) (Responsiveness to the Absolute or Competitive Priority) in evaluating an application.

(b)(1) In considering selection criteria in § 350.54, the Secretary selects one or more of the factors listed in the criteria except as provided for in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(2) Under § 350.54, the Secretary always considers the factor in paragraph (n)(2) of that section.

(c) The maximum possible score for an application is 100 points.

(d)(1) In the application package or a notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, the Secretary informs applicants of—

(i)(A) The selection criteria chosen; and

(B) The maximum possible score for each of the selection criteria; and

(ii)(A) The factors selected for considering the selection criteria; and

(B) If points are assigned to each factor, the maximum possible score for each factor under each criterion.

(2) If no points are assigned to each factor, the Secretary evaluates each factor equally.

(e) For Field-Initiated Projects, in addition to the selection criteria, the Secretary uses the additional considerations in selecting applications for funding as described in § 350.55.

(Authority: Sec. 202(e); 29 U.S.C. 761a(e))

**§ 350.54 What selection criteria does the Secretary use in evaluating an application?**

In addition to criteria established under § 350.53(a)(1)(ii), the Secretary may select one or more of the following criteria in evaluating an application: